Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INRE-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SAM-01 PRS-01

DRC-01 PA-04 USIE-00 SAB-01 /069 W ----- 065144

O R 131220Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6715
INFO DA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
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EUR VAIHINGEN GER

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 1905

E.O.: 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: SANG MODERNIZATION

REF: STATE 71088

- 1. AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH PRINCE ABDULLA 1100 HOURS LOCAL (0800 GMT) APRIL 14 IN RIYADH TO PRESENT LETTER OF OFFER (L/O) FOR \$272 MILLION. POINTS RAISED IN REFTEL ARE INCLUDED IN COVER LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO PRINCE ABDULLA.
- 2. SAG DOES PLAN PRESS RELEASE. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE:

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA. APRIL 14TH.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCE ABDULLA IBN ABDUL AZIZ, COM-MANDER IN CHIEF OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NATIONAL GUARD, RE-CEIVED IN HIS OFFICE TODAY HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MR. JAMES E. AKINS, AND THE DELEGATION ACCOM-PANYING HIM, WHERE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERN-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTS TO START THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

HAS BEEN SIGNED. PRESENT ON THE OCCASION WERE A NUMBER OF NATIONAL GUARD AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID, "WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF HIS MAJESTY, KING FAISAL, THE CHIEF COMMANDER, TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO RAISE THE NATIONAL GUARD TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF TRAINING AND ARMS EQUIPMENT, IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN SECURING THIS NATION AND ITS IDEALS AND BELIEFS: AFTER SOME MORE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, THIS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. ACCORDING TO THIS AGREEMENT THE NATIONAL GUARD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AND THE NATIONAL GUARD WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST U.S. ARMY ARMORED VEHICLES MOUNTING VARIOUS WEAPONS PLUS AMERICAN MOBILE AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS AND THE LATEST U.S. ANTI-TANK WEAPONS SYSTEM. IN ADDITION TO THIS, AN ARTILLERY BATTALION WILL BE ORGANIZED AND EQUIPPED WITH 105MM HOWITZERS. THE AGREE-MENT SIGNED TODAY MARKS ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR PROGRAMS TO BE INITIATED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE THE ANNOUNCE-MENT LAST WEEK OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' INTENT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND MIL-ITARY FIELDS. IT IS ALSO CONSIDERED ON OF THE MAJOR STEPS BEING CARRIED OUT AT THE PRESENT TIME TO REALIZE THE **OBJECTIVES**

PUT FORTH BY THE HEAD OF THIS NATION, HIS
MAJESTY, KING FAISAL, FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD. WE PRAY TO
GOD THAT HE WILL PROVIDE US WITH HIS SUPPORT AND THAT WE
WILL BE ABLE TO REALIZE BY HIS WILL THE GOALS OF OUR
NATION IN THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. UNQUOTE.
AKINS

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